

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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R 100730Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3572

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 609

FOR AF/S AND INR/RAF

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, MZ

SUBJECT: PROFESSOR DOUGLAS WHEELER PLANS VISIT AND RESEARCH

IN MOZAMBIQUE

1. RECEIVED LETTER FROM DOUGLAS WHEELER, PROFESSOR OF MODERN AFRICAN HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DATED MAY 22. WHEELER STATED HE MAKING PLANS VISIT MOZAMBIQUE "EITHER IN JULY OR IN EARLY AUGUST". HE HAS WRITTEN DR. ANTONIO CABRAL, DIRECTOR FOR THE CENTER FOR INFORMATION AND TOURISM, WHO REPLIED BUT IS NOT RIGHT MAN. WHEELER WISHES TO DO RESEARCH IN LOURENCO MARQUES ARCHIVES AND INVESTIGATE WAYS OF CEMENTING RELATIONS BETWEEN AMERICAN ACADEMICS "AND NEW MOZAMBIQUE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SYSTEM". STATES HE IS COMING AS "SCHOLAR HISTORIAN" AND WILLING GIVE PUBLIC LECTURES ON MOZAMBIQUE HISTORY. EAGER ESTABLISH CONTACTS WITH ARCHIVES AND UNIVERSITY.

2. AS WHEELER IS WELL KNOWN ACADEMIC EXPERT ON PORTUGUESE AFRICA AND PERSONAL FRIEND OF MINE, I CALLED ON UNIVERSITY RECTOR, DR. FERNANDO GANHAO, AND DISCUSSED LETTER WITH HIM. GANHAO SAID ARCHIVES WOULD BE CLOSED IN JULY (THOUGH ARCHIVE DIRECTOR DENIES THIS) AND UNIVERSITY TERM WILL NOT BEGIN UNTIL AUGUST TO ALLOW STUDENTS TO "LEND THEIR TALENTS AND TRAINING"

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TO THEIR NATION. HE ALSO SAID HE WOULD BE TRAVELING IN EUROPE

AND PERHAPS TO THE UNITED STATES BEGINNING SOMETIME IN AUGUST.

3. THE RECTOR WAS GRADUATED FROM UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW IN HISTORY AND IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN AFRICAN HISTORY. HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PROFESSOR WHEELER'S VISIT, AFTER INITIALLY EXHIBITING SOME COOLNESS WHICH I TOOK TO BE DUE TO WHEELER'S HAVING WRITTEN TO ME RATHER THAN TO HIM. (ACCORDING TO GANHAO, HE WAS REFUSED A VISA IN 1968 BY EMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM WHEN PROFESSOR JAN VANSINA HAD ASKED HIM TO COME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.) AT END OF OUR CONVERSATION, RECTOR MADE QUITE CLEAR IT WOULD BE BEST FOR WHEELER TO WRITE HIM DIRECTLY.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE WHEELER'S VISIT COULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL IN OPENING CHANNELS BETWEEN UNIVERSITY OF LOURENCO MARQUES AND AMERICAN AFRICANISTS AND AUGUST IS PREFERABLE TO JULY. RECTOR HAS PERSONALLY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ALLEN ISAACMAN, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, AS WELL AS WITH JAN VANSINA AND SEVERAL BRITISH AFRICANISTS. REQUEST DEPARTMENT CONTACT WHEELER ASAP AND URGE HIM TO WRITE DIRECTLY TO RECTOR WITHOUT DELAY.

WALKER

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